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ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY IN OREGON

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The reports of rescarch published in this magazine are necessarily qualified by the conditions of the tests from which the data are obtained. Whenever it is deemed possible to do so, generalizations are drawn from the results of the tests; and, unless this is done, the conclusions formulated must be considered as specifically pertinent only to the described conditions.

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## THE WESTERN STATES TRAFFIC SURVEY

T'HE REPOR'T of a traffic survey of the Federal-aid highway system in the Western States has recently been published by the Bureau of Public Roads. ${ }^{1}$ This survey was conducted by the bureau in cooperation with the State highway departments of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The report gives the essential facts regarding the present density, types, capacities, and distribution of traffic units and forecasts of future traffic as a basis for planning highway development to serve present and future needs. A summary of the principal facts brought out by the survey is given in the following pages.

Six of the eleven States have more than 20 per cent, and three States more than 30 per cent of foreign traffic. By foreign traffic is meant travel by vehicles from outside the particular State under discussion.
3. Trucks under 3 tons capacity constitute 85.5 per cent of all truck traffic; more than 50 per cent of all trucks operating in these States are in the 1 to $1 \frac{1}{2}$ ton group. Less than 6 per cent are 5 -ton or over. California has the heaviest truck traffic, with 23.1 per cent in the group of 3 tons and over; New Mexico has the smallest number of heavy trucks, with 5.2 per cent having capacities of 3 tons and over.
4. Nearly half of all trucks travel under 80 miles per


On the Ridge Route in California

## SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

1. Annual use of the Federal-aid highway system is approximately $8,400,000,000$ vehicle-miles. Intensity of use per mile is greatest in California and least in Nevada. Travel is concentrated. For example, on U. S. 91 from Springville to Logan, Utah, comprising 6.6 per cent of the highway mileage of the State, is found more than 40 per cent of the total vehicle mileage in Utah, and more than 40 per cent of the truck mileage. In Nevada 64 miles of the Federal-aid system near Reno, 4.2 per cent of the total in the State, carries 25 per cent of the State's total vehicle mileage and about 17 per cent of the truck mileage.
2. Foreign traffic varies from 4.9 per cent of the total motor traffic in California to 38.5 per cent in Arizona, and averages 15 per cent throughout the whole area.

[^0]day; 12 per cent travel in excess of 200 miles per day. The average daily travel is 103 miles, the median daily travel 82 miles. The proportion of foreign trucks making exceptionally long trips to total foreign trucks is nearly five times the proportion of local trucks making similar trips. The average travel of foreign trucks is 154 miles, more than one and one-half times the average daily travel of local trucks.
5. Approximately one-half of all trucks are city owned. The remaining half is nearly equally divided among owners living in villages (under 2,500 population) or on farms. In Wyoming, a State with large areas of unproductive land and a small population largely concentrated in villages along the highways and railroads, only 23 per cent of the trucks are city owned, 34 per cent are village owned, and 43 per cent are farm owned. California is at the other extreme with two large urban areas and numerous smaller cities. Here


Figure 1.-Highway Map of 11 Western States, Showing Location of Traffic Recording Stations. U. S. Highway Numbers are Shown in Bold Numerals, Numbers of Recording Stations in Light Numerals
city-owned trucks are 66 per cent of the total, and the remainder is divided equally between farms and villages. There is definitely a greater proportionate use of the highways by rural trucks than by urban trucks.
6. The effect of physical barriers upon truck traffic is pronounced. Most foreign trucking originates in adjoining States.
7. Eighty-six per cent of all trucks are operated by their owners; contract haulers operate 8.7 per cent, and common carriers operate 5.5 per cent of all trucks.

The proportion of owner-operated trucks is six times that of commercial trucks. Common-carrier trucks constitute less than $1 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent of all motor traffic. Approximately 80 per cent of common carriers are engaged in intrastate hauling. Variation in demand for common-carrier service among the States is dependent mainly upon the variations in density and distribution of population within the area, and upon the amount of registration fee charged by the State. A comparison of common-carrier traffic with the num-
ber of such carriers registered indicates an intensity of usage of common carriers about four times that of all trucks.
8. Approximately 57 per cent of all passenger cars travel less than 140 miles per day; 4 per cent travel 400 miles or more per day. The average daily mileage of passenger cars is nearly 50 per cent greater than the average daily mileage of trucks. The average daily travel of foreign passenger cars is nearly double that of local passenger cars. Ten per cent of foreign passenger cars travel over 400 miles per day.
9. In but three States, Nebraska, Nevada, and Wyoming, does the proportion of city-owned passenger cars fall below 50 per cent; in California the proportion is 73.2 per cent. In the whole area city-owned passenger cars constitute 61 per cent. A comparison of truck and passenger car situs of ownership indicates that in every State the proportion of city-owned cars is much higher than that of city-owned trucks. Cityowned cars travel an average of 169 miles per day; village-owned cars, 129 miles per day; farm-owned cars, 99 miles per day.
10. Passenger-car traffic is less affected than truck traffic by difficult topography or climate. More than one-seventh of the foreign passenger-car traffic in the Western States originates east of the Mississippi River.
11. The number of passengers per car averages 2.42 , with slight variation in the average among individual States. Nearly two-thirds of all passenger cars carry either one or two passengers.
12. The Federal-aid highways of the 11 States were classified upon the basis of present traffic and traffic forecasts for 1935 and 1940. Routes or sections of routes carrying 1,500 or more motor vehicles per day are classed as major routes, those carrying 600 to 1,500 per day as intermediate routes, and those carrying less than 600 vehicles daily are classed as minor routes. The routes or sections of routes are grouped in this way on the basis of observed 1930 traffic, and the estimated traffic for 1935 and 1940 is employed in a similar manner to indicate the probable classification in those years.

Slightly over 11 per cent of the Federal-aid highways carried over 1,500 motor vehicles per day in 1930. Nearly one-half of the mileage classed as major lies in the State of California, about one-fifth is located in Washington, and the remainder is scattered mainly in short sections throughout the other States.

Eighteen per cent of the mileage carried between 600 and 1,500 motor vehicles per day in 1930, about onequarter of which was in the State of Nebraska, with nearly as much mileage of intermediate classification in California.

The remaining 66 per cent of the classified mileage carried less than 600 motor vehicles per day in 1930. Five per cent of the Federal-aid system could not be classified.

In 1935 the respective mileage classifications are expected to be as follows: major 14 per cent; intermediate, 22 per cent; minor, 59 per cent. The expected classification for 1940 is as follows: major, 16 per cent; intermediate, 25 per cent; minor 54 per cent.

## THE METHODS OF THE SURVEY DESCRIBED

The traffic survey was begun in September, 1929, in all States except Washington and Nevada, where field operations were instituted in October and November, respectively. Traffic data was recorded at 899 points in the 11 States with locations as shown in Figure 1.

In addition to counting the volume of traffic in each classification of vehicles and upon each route, field men stopped each motorist and distributed franked cards which were returned to the Bureau of Public Roads. By means of these cards information was obtained regarding the day's mileage traveled, the origin and destination of the vehicle, the number of passengers carried, the capacity of trucks, the situs of ownership (farm, village, or city) and the State of registration. During the last three months of field operations traffic recorders questioned drivers of trucks, obtained the names of owners, classified them as owner-operators, contract haulers or common carriers, and determined whether operations were interstate or intrastate. Busses were classified simply as interstate or intrastate.

## DETAILED TRAFFIC DATA

The average daily traffic upon the highways in the Western States is presented graphically in Figure 2. In the Pacific Coast States is found the largest mileage of highway carrying over 1,500 motor vehicles per day, totaling more than 3,000 miles. The traffic on U. S. Highway 99 is continuously above 1,500 vehicles per day from Indio to Sacramento and from Eugene, Oreg., to Ferndale, Wash., throughout more than twothirds of its entire length. Between Los Angeles and Bakersfield there is an average of 300 trucks per day. The transportation of oil-well supplies to the oil fields near Bakersfield, and of cotton, hay, and milk to Los Angeles make this an extremely important section from the standpoint of weight of traffic. In addition to the long-haul truck traffic on U. S. 99 between northern and southern California, there is a great deal of local trucking between the cities of the densely populated San Joaquin Valley. From Bakersfield north to Stockton the average daily volume of trucks varies from 400 immediately north of Bakersfield to more than 1,000 trucks per day at Fresno. The average daily travel of trucks on this route is 140 miles and the median daily travel 120 miles, considerably higher than the average and median for all trucks in California.

Approximately one-half the mileage of U. S. 101, between San Diego and Healdsburg, Calif., and a few short sections near cities, carries 1,500 or more motor vehicles per day. The greatest volume of truck traffic is found south of Los Angeles between that city and Whittier, a total of nearly 1,400 trucks per day passing over this section, of which more than 350 are trucks of greater than 3 -ton capacity. The greater portion of this traffic is local, as the number of trucks decreases rapidly south of Whittier, but the average between Whittier and San Diego is about 400 trucks per day, and the number of heavy trucks is but slightly less than 100 per day. The average and median daily mileage traveled by trucks on this route between Los Angeles and San Francisco are 120 and 100 miles, respectively.

Colorado has more than 300 miles of highway with a density of 1,500 or more vehicles daily, the mileage being distributed over sections of several routes-U. S. 85, Pueblo to Greeley; U. S. 50, La Junta to Pueblo; and U. S. 285, Denver to Fort Collins. These sections form a continuous route with traffic of this volume from La Junta to Greeley via Denver, and from Denver to Fort Collins.

With the exception of a section from Provo to Brigham, Utah, 104 miles in length, and a few short sections near the cities of Arizona, Idaho, Nebraska, Nevada, and New Mexico, the remainder of the mileage carries less than 1,500 motor vehicles per day.


Figure 2.-Average Daily Density of Traffic on the Highways of the Western States, 1929-1930

## FOREIGN TRAFFIC

The percentage of foreign traffic within each State is given in Table 1. These percentages are the ratio of foreign vehicle-miles to total vehicle-miles. It should be noted that a small percentage does not necessarily indicate a small volume of foreign traffic.

The average daily flow of foreign traffic for all States is shown graphically in Figure 3. A comparison of the traffic-flow map (fig. 2) with the foreign traffic-flow map (fig. 3) reveals some interesting contrasts. On U. S. 80 at the California-Arizona line, the volume of foreign traffic on the Arizona side is half again as large as that upon the California side of the border, because of the

Table 1.- Average daily foreign traffic in Western States, expressed in vehicle-miles and in percentage of average_total daily traffic

| State | $\begin{array}{c}\text { Daily } \\ \text { foreign } \\ \text { vehicle- } \\ \text { miles }\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c}\text { Percent- } \\ \text { age of } \\ \text { total } \\ \text { vehicle- } \\ \text { miles }\end{array}$ |  | State | $\begin{array}{c}\text { Daily } \\ \text { foreign } \\ \text { vehicle- } \\ \text { miles }\end{array}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | \(\left.\begin{array}{c}Percent- <br>

age of <br>
total <br>
vehicle- <br>
miles\end{array}\right]\)


Figure 3.-Average Daily Density of Foreign Traffic in the Western States, 1929-1930
large number of cars from the latter State traveling to Yuma. Still more noticeable are the changes in volume of foreign traffic on U. S. 99 as it passes the CaliforniaOregon and Oregon-Washington boundaries. At the California-Oregon line local traffic from California to Ashland and Grants Pass increases the volume of foreign traffic in Oregon to approximately twice that in California, while at the Oregon-W ashington line local traffic
from Vancouver, Wash., to Portland, Oreg., is responsible for a foreign density in Oregon more than three times that in Washington. This latter difference and those in the immediate vicinity of the Oregon-Idaho border near Weiser and Ontario, Idaho, are not shown upon the map, as the sections are short in length and large in width, and to show them would so distort the map as to blot out other important data.

## VARIATIONS IN TRAFFIC DENSITY

Traffic density varies from the averages of the flow maps on any particular day, or during the various seasons of the year and is abnormally high because of fairs, football games, or other sporting events producing exceptional movement. Aside from such abnormal movements, traffic density reaches its normal maximum during the month of August in all States except Arizona, where the month of heaviest travel is March, and in Utah, where September is the month of maximum traffic. A more valuable picture of the variation by seasons of the year, and one which does not accentuate the extremes, is given by the ratio of the average traffic during the six months of heaviest traffic to that during


Figure 4.- Comparison of Summer and Winter Passen-ger-Car Traffic


Figure 5.-Comparison of Summer and Winter Truck Traffic
the six months of lightest traffic. The ratios of summer to winter traffic are presented by States for passenger cars and trucks separately in Figures 4 and 5. These data bring out very sharply the effect of climatic differences upon traffic flow; for example, Arizona's passenger-car traffic varies but 7 . per cent between winter and summer, while Wyoming's severe winters are reflected in an 89 per cent variation between the two seasons. For truck traffic the figures are somewhat similar, although the comparison of truck traffic at different seasons is seriously affected by the presence or absence of large population centers or industrial areas. Truck traffic is less responsive to seasonal changes. The extreme seasonal variation is best illustrated by Wyoming's passenger-car traffic, which shows an increase of 247 per cent from January to August.
U. S. 87, north of Moran, Wyo., illustrates the effect of winter conditions upon traffic flow. Here the average daily density for the winter season is but 8 per cent of that for the entire year. The flow of traffic into Yellowstone Park during the summer months tends to raise the yearly average and depress proportionately the winter average. U. S. 50 , south of Glenbrook, Nev.,
and U. S. 191, north of Trude, Idaho, are other examples. On U. S. 10 , north of Virden, Wash., the winter ratio is but 25 per cent of the yearly average, because of winter traffic avoiding Blewett Pass.

In some portions of the southern States of this group the situation is reversed and average winter traffic exceeds the annual average by as much as 26 per cent.


Figure 6.-Comparison of Sunday and Week-Day Pas-senger-Car Traffic


Figure 7.-Comparison of Sunday and Week-Day Truck Traffic

A high winter average may be due to causes other than travel of winter tourists; for example, on U. S. 180, east of Silver City., N. Mex., truck traffic to copper mines tends to keep the winter average high.

Passenger-car traffic is greater on Sunday than on any other day of the week in all States, while truck traffic is less on Sunday in every State. The ratios of Sunday to average week-day traffic are given for passenger cars and trucks in Figures 6 and 7.

## TRUCK TRAFFIC

Highway design and location are dependent not only upon the volume of traffic to be served, but also upon the unit weight of this traffic. In problems which concern the free movement of traffic, such as the width of pavement, the necessity for parallel routes, or the elimination of grade crossings and "bottle necks," density of traffic is the most important factor. In the problems of designing the section or of selecting the most economical pavement, weight of traffic as well as density must be considered. A relatively small highway mileage in each State carries the greatest amount of heavy trucking. Truck traffic upon the highways of the 11 States, including the average daily density of trucks with capacities of 3 tons and over, is presented graphically in Figure 8.
Light trucks are far more numerous than those of any other type on the highways in the Western States. Trucks ranging from 1 to $1 \frac{1}{2}$ ton capacity form the most


Figure 8.-Average Daily Density of Truck Traffic in the Western States, 1929-1930, Including Density of Heavy Truck Traffic. Width Between Lines Indicates Density of Total Truck Traffic and Symbols Indicate Density of Heayy-Truck Traffic
important group in all States of the survey, and represent more than 50 per cent of all trucks operating in these States. The use of very light delivery trucks and of trucks of slightly greater than $1 \frac{1}{2}$-ton capacity is also extensive, trucks of less than 1-ton capacity forming 14.2 per cent and trucks of 2 to $2 \frac{1}{2}$ ton capacity forming 17.6 per cent of all trucks. Light trucks of less than 3 -ton capacity comprise 85.5 per cent of all
trucks. Trucks of greater than 3-ton capacity, while comprising but 14.5 per cent of all trucks, are far more important from the standpoint of highway design. Table 2 gives in detail the relative number of trucks of the various capacities observed on the highways of each State and also the combined percentages for the total number of trucks observed. These percentage distributions are shown graphically in Figure 9. The largest


Figure 9.-Percentage Distribution of Truck Traffic by Capacity. Total Truck Traffic in Each State Represents 100 Per Cent
group in every instance is the 1 to $1 \frac{1}{2}$ ton group，but there are significant differences in the relative impor－ tance of light and heary trucks in different States．The relative use of heary trucks is greatest in California，23．1 per cent，and least in New Mexico，the percentage being 5．2．Other States where the relative use of heay trucks is higher than the arerage are Washington， Nevada，and Orecon；in Arizona，Colorado，and Idaho the percentage of heary trucks is slightly less than the average．There is considerably less than the average percentage of heavy trucks in Nebraska，Utah，Wyo－ ming and New Mexico．

An indication of the daily mileages traveled by trucks is obtained by a comparison of the average and median daily mileage of trucks（Table 3）．The arithmetic average for all States is 103 miles，but this average is heavily weighted by a small number of trucks which make unusually large daily mileages．Daily mileage is the distance traveled per day and is not the distance from a single origin to a single destination during that day．The median daily mileage，a distance so com－ puted that one－half of all trucks travel less and one－half travel more than this distance，is unaffected by the smaller number of vehirles which make longer daily


Truck Traffic on Western Highways

Table 2．－Percontago distribution of trucks by capacity

| Capacity group （tons） |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { an } \\ & \text { 荡 } \\ & \text { © } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { oit } \\ & \text { 若 } \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ | $$ |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { I⿸\zh14⿰⿺乚一匕刂} \\ & \text { ثoㅇ } \end{aligned}$ | $\mid \underset{\Xi}{5}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { n } \\ & \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{8}{3} \\ & \frac{8}{30} \\ & =1 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 16.5 \\ 48.2 \\ 41.7 \\ 8.9 \\ 8.9 \\ 1.2 \\ 2.1 \\ .3 \\ .2 \\ .9 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 16.8 \\ & 41.8 \\ & 11.3 \\ & 10.7 \\ & 9.7 \\ & \hline 2.2 \\ & 4.8 \\ & 1.8 \\ & 4.5 \\ & 4.5 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 13.7 \\ 59.8 \\ 11.8 \\ 5.1 \\ 5.8 \\ 3.3 \\ 1.7 \\ 1.3 \\ .5 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 14.8 \\ & 57.7 \\ & 14.0 \\ & 5.4 \\ & 1.4 \\ & 6.2 \\ & .4 \\ & .{ }^{1} \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ | 9.4 9.5 17.0 17.0 6.0 1.0 .8 . 1 1 4 | $\begin{gathered} 16.0 \\ 63.8 \\ 15.0 \\ 2.9 \\ .8 \\ .8 \\ .2 \\ .1 \\ .4 \end{gathered}$ | 20.5 45.6 16.7 7.7 1.4 4.1 1.0 .0 a 2． |  | 29.6 47.6 13.1 5.7 1.3 1.3 0.3 0 .2 .2 | 20.2 44.4 17.9 6.9 2.2 5.2 1.7 .8 .7 | 14.2 <br> 64.1 <br> 14.1 <br> 5.1 <br> 5.3 <br> .9 <br> 9 <br> .3 <br> 3 <br> 3 <br> 3 | 14.2 5.7 17.7 7.3 1.4 3.2 .3 1.4 1.4 |

Total．．．．．100．0 100． 01100.0100 .0100 .0100 .0100 .0100 .0100 .0100 .0100 .0100 .0

> SUMAARY OF LIGUT AND HEAVY TRUCKS

[^1]mileages and hence is a better measure of the arerage daily mileage．The median for all States is 82 miles， 21 miles shorter than the arithmetic mean．While 80 miles is not usually considered a short haul，it must be remembered that this distance is the mileage per day on rural highways，and that it usually represents one or more round trips from origin to destimation．

There is an important long daily movement reflected by the 12 per cent of all trucks which travel distanees in excess of 200 miles per day．

Only one－third of all foreign trucks trated less than 100 miles per day；fully one－third travel from 100 to 200 miles；while one－fifth travel between 200 and 300 miles： and one－tenth exceed 300 miles per day．As but 2.3 per cent of local trucks exceed 300 miles per day，the proportion of foreign trucks making exceptionally long trips to total foreign trucks is more than four times the proportion of local trucks making simitar trips．

TAble 3.-Average ${ }^{1}$ and median ${ }^{2}$ daily mileage of trucks

${ }_{2}^{1}$ Arithmetic average of daily mileages of vehicles.
2 A distance so chosen that one-half of the vehicles travel more than this distance in a day and one-half travel less.
Rural population, defined by the Bureau of the Census to include the population of villages under 2,500 as well as the population actually on farms, comprises 42.7 per cent of the total population of the 11 States. Trucks of rural ownership, as above defined, were found to include 53.3 per cent of all trucks on the highway system. Urban population, 57.3 per cent of the total, is represented by 46.7 per cent of all trucks using the highways. Thus there is definitely a greater proportionate use of the highways by rural trucks than by urban trucks. This relationship holds for all States of the survey in varying degree, except in Arizona, New Mexico, and Idaho, where the proportion of rural trucks is less than the proportion of rural population. In these three States there is a large proportion of foreign trucks which undoubtedly increase the percentages of city-owned trucks, since the majority of long-distance interstate trucking lines are city owned.

Approximately half of Arizona's foreign truck traffic originates in southern California, while a large part of the remainder is contributed by El Paso, Tex. In New Mexico one-half the foreign truck traffic originates in Texas, clearly indicating the influence of El Paso, while Colorado also contributes a large share via Walsenburg and Trinidad. The proximity of the cities of Salt Lake City, Brigham, and Ogden in Utah, and Spokane, Wash., raises the percentage of city-owned trucks traveling upon Idaho highways.

## FORECASTS OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC IN THE WESTERN STATES

Planned highway construction-widening, new construction, or reconstruction of old routes and pave-ments-must provide for future use as well as for present traffic.

There is little question as to the desirability of the higher types of pavement, but funds necessary for the universal construction of such types are not now available. Roads that are too highly improved are as uncconomic as those that are inadequate for traffic demands. Because of this fact, estimates of future traffic are essential in the development of a plan of highway improvement.

Traffic forecasts based solely on past traffic trends can not generally be made, as reliable traffic data for a series of years are available only in a few States. Limited past traffic data may be used in a reasonable forecast of probable future traffic where the factors of population, registration, and gasoline consumption are available. Since these nceded factors are obtainable in all the Western States, a means of estimating the prob-
able future traffic in each is present, even though no traffic series is available.

Traffic forecasts in previous reports of the Bureau of Public Roads ${ }^{2}$ were based on estimates of registration and population. Trends of traffic and motor vehicle registration were shown for Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Registration was estimated by projecting the trend of persons per car. This method was used in forecasting probable registration in the Western States.


Heavy Traffic on California 60 North of Santa Monica Canyon in Los Angeles County
Gasoline consumption is more closely related to volume of traffic than is registration, but statistics of gasoline consumption can be obtained only for very recent years, since the institution of a fuel tax. It was therefore necessary to use a combination of these several factors.

Increased travel per car and the amount of use of a State's highways by foreign vehicles are both reflected in increased gasoline consumption within that State, although the motor-vehicle registration of the State is not affected by either of these factors. Numerous agencies of the motor-vehicle industry have published statements regarding the increasing use per car, some indicating an increased mileage per car for 1930 more than 60 per cent greater than in 1920, and these conclusions are supported by figures of increased fucl consumption per car.

The survey in the Western States (see Table 1) discloses that the range of foreign traffic is from 4.9 per cent of all traffic in California to 38.5 and 37.6 per cent in Arizona and New Mexico, respectively. The median State is Oregon, with 22.1 per cent of its traffic originating outside its boundaries. Only California has less

[^2]than 10 per cent foreign traffic, while more than onethird of all traffic in Arizona and New Mexico comes from other States.

RELATIONSHIP OF GASOLINE CONSUMPTION, REGISTRATION, AND
Since 1925 and 1926 gasoline consumption has increased more rapidly than registration in the Western States, as well as in the United States as a whole. This is clearly illustrated in Figure 10, in which the historical series of gasoline consumption, registration, and traffic have been plotted on logarithmic scale and moved together vertically to facilitate comparison of the rates of increase in two of the Western States.

Traffic data for the period 1923 to 1929 are available in Oregon. During this period registration in Oregon has increased 64.2 per cent; traffic, 101.2 per cent; and gasoline consumption by motor vehicles, 104.4 per cent. If 1929 is taken as the base year the percentage increases are as follows: Registration, 39.1 per cent; traffic, 50.3 per cent; gasoline consumption, 51.1 per cent. (Table 4.) It will be found by reference to Figure 10 that for the years from 1920 to 1924 the trends for motor vehicle registration and gasoline consumption are very similar. In 1924 these series begin to separate and the divergence continues to increase with the registration trend falling off while that of gasoline consumption continues to climb with the traffic trend.

TABLE 4.- Comparison of motor vechrcle registration, gasoline consumption, and highway traffic in Oregon, 1923-1929

| Year | Registration 1 | Index number | Gasoline consumption (gallons) | Index number | Traffic | Index number |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1923 | 166, 412 | 100.0 | 74, 395, 262 | 100.0 | 86,931 | 100.0 |
| 1924 | 192, 629 | 115.8 | 86, 212, 032 | 115.9 | 110, 891 | 127.6 |
| 1925 | 216,553 | 130.1 | 99, 718, 545 | 134.0 | 120, 893 | 139.1 |
| 1926 | 234, 134 | 140.7 | 111, 739, 583 | 150.2 | 137, 431 | 158. 1 |
| 1927 | 245, 705 | 147.7 | 122, 979, 624 | 165.3 | 146, 257 | 168.2 |
| 1928 | 254, 415 | 152. ${ }^{\text {S }}$ | 134, 228, 921 | 180.4 | 163, 934 | 188. 6 |
| 1929 | 273, 270 | 164.2 | 152, 079, 099 | 204.4 | 174,871 | 201. 2 |

I As reported to U.S. Bureau of Public Roads by State officials. In somie instances a revision has been made of the figure originally reported in annual tabulations.

California has a 5 -year series of traffic, gasoline consumption, and registration. Figure 10, presents trends of these factors. Here again the trends of gasoline consumption and traffic are very similar, while the registration curve, as in Oregon, is lower since 1926. During these five years, 1926 to 1930, traffic increased 39.3 per cent; registration 27.5 per cent; and gasoline consumption 40.9 per cent. If 1930 is used as a base year, the increases are as follows: Traffic, 28.2 per cent; registration, 21.6 per cent; and gasoline consumption, 29.0 per cent. Absolute and percentage figures are shown in Table 5. Further reference to California (fig. 10) brings out the interesting fact that during 1924, 1925, and 1926 gasoline consumption and registration trends were very much alike, but since 1926 they have diverged. Again the gasoline consumption trend follows more closely that of traffic.

All of the divergence of registration from traffic and gasoline consumption trends would not be accounted for by foreign traffic alone, since it amounts to but 4.9 per cent of all traffic in California. The greater use of the automobile throughout the year is another factor that is reflected in increased gasoline consumption.

Table 6, based on data for the State of Louisiana, further illustrates the fact that traffic is increasing at a

Table 5.-Comparison of motor vehicle registration, gasoline consumption, and highway traffic in California, 1926-1930

| Year | Registra- <br> tion | Index <br> number | Gasoline <br> consumption <br> (gallons) | Index <br> number | Traffic: | Index |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| number |  |  |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{1}{ }^{1}$ This series is an a verage of Sunday and Monday traffic in January at 583 stations. In January, 1930, an unusually heavy snow closed many roads during the traftic count. Sunday traffic decreased more than 20 per cent, but Monday traffic, with the same roads closed, showed an increase over the previous year. A slightly lower rate of increase than that of July, 1930, over July, 1929, traffic was used to interpolate thi January, 193, hgure. Han the index number for traffic in 1930 would have been closer to the gasoline consumption
index of 140.9 , i. e., 140.3 instead of 136.3 .


Figure 10.-Trends of Highway Traffic, Gasoline Consumption, and Motor Vehicle Registration in Oregon and California. The Vertical Scaie is Logarithmic and the Curves Have Been Moved Togethier Vertically for Comparison of Rates of Increase
faster rate than registration. It should be noted that gasoline figures in Louisiana do not represent gallons of gasoline consumed by motor rehicles as in Oregon and California, but total gallons for all purposes. Louisiana traffic increased 25.2 per cent from 1926 to 1930. Registration increased 14.9 per cent and gasoline consumption increased 36.4 per cent. Fragmentary data from Nebraska, where a small number of traffic stations were operated at changing locations from 1926 to 1930, indicate closer agreement in rates of increase of

Table 6.-Comparison of motor velicle registration, qasoline consumption, and highuay traffic in Louisiana, 19.26-19.30

| Year | Registra- tion | Index number | Gasoline consumption (gallons) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Index } \\ & \text { number } \end{aligned}$ | Traffic | Index number |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1926 | 239, 500 | 100.0 | 135, 428, 3 i 7 | 100.0 | 104, 710 | 101). 0 |
| 1927 | 255, 000 | 10 S .5 | 151, 702, 807 | 112.0 | 116, 270 | 111.1 |
| 1928 | 264, 293 | 110.4 | 169, 046. 556 | 124.8 | 116, 575 | 111.3 |
| 1929 | 280, 868 | 117.3 | 176, 645, 631 | 130.4 | 130, 270 | 124.4 |
| 1930 | 275, 283 | 114.9 | 184, 781, 753 | 136.4 | 131, 097 | 125.2 |

traffic and gasoline consumption than in rates of inrrease of traffic and motor vehicle registration.

Statistics of gasoline consumption in the State of Colorado are arailable for a longer period of years than in any other State, i. e., since 1913. The rates of increase in motor vehicle registration and in gasoline consumption are very similar year by year between 1913 and 1925. Alter 1925 the increases in registration take place at a less rapid rate than the rates of increase in gasoline consumption for corresponding years. The figures of Table 7 present the data for comparison.

TABLE 7.--Compurison of registration of motor vehicles and gasoline consumption in Colorado, 1913-1930

Gasoline consumption

| Registration | Gasoline (net) | Consumption (gross) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |

1913
1914
1915
1916
1917
1918
1919
1920
1921
1922
1923
1924
1925
19226
1927
1924
1924
1930
13,000
17,756
24,894
43,296
87,460
83,244
104,865
129,255
145,739
162,328
188,956
213,247
240,097
248,613
268,492
284,867
303,489
308,5193

As reportel hy state Inspector of oils
2 Based on taves collected in 1920 amparently reported in part with collections of 1921.

EFFECT OF PRESENT DEPRESSION ON FORECASTS IN WESTERN STATES
General trend lines were considered in arriving at figures in the Western States forecasts. Previous business slumps have checked the rate of decline in persons per car for a year or two, and in a few States for a longer period, but this ratio has always returned to its general trend, as is cleaty illustrated in Figure 11.

Statistics show that while registration barely held its own in 1930, gasoline consumption and traffic have had definite increases.

## MILES PER GALLON

Where data have been obtained on the operation of any considerable number of passenger cars it has been found that the average mileage per gallon is around 15 miles. Some individual records are as high as 23 miles per gallon, others as low as 11 .

Some investigators have suggested 11,000 miles as an average annual mileage. Others indicate that the figure is much lower, from 6,000 to 10,000 miles.

Assuming 8,000 miles per year as the average travel of registered vehicles in the United States and dividing the number of gallons of gasoline consumed into the vehicle mleage, we obtain an average of 14.38 miles per gallon as the average rate of fuel consumption. Were the 11,000 miles per vehicle used, the result would be 19.78 miles per gallon for all vehicles.

The rapid increase in trucks registered during the decade 1920 to 1930 ( 246.0 per cent net) as compared to passenger cars registered ( 180.1 per cent net) very probably has had considerable effect upon miles per gallon for all vehicles.

However, trucks amounted to 10.9 per cent of total registration in 1920, and 13.1 per cent in 1930 . If 15 miles per gallon were used for passenger cars and 8 miles per gallon for trucks, the weighted average in 1920 would be 14.24 miles per gallon as compared with 14.08 in 1930.

In a truck survey by the General Motors Corporation involving 46,000 trucks, the miles per gallon for light, medium, and heavy trucks are given. When weighted by per cent of each capacity, the average for all is 11.25 miles per gallon. Using 11.25 for trucks and the above 15 for passenger cars, the weighted average in 1920 was 14.59 , and in 1930, 14.51 miles per gallon. In one case, the decrease was sixteen-hundredths, and the other eight-hundredths of a mile per gallon in the past 10 years. The point is that truck registration (including busses) is so small as compared to total registration that the reduction of miles per gallon for all vehicles is small indeed.

This small change in average mileage per gallon is an indication that little additional traffic may be estimated from this factor.

## PERSONS PER MOTOR VEHICLE

The number of persons per car was found for each State from 1913 to 1930 and extended to 1940, based on population as of July 1. These data are shown graphically in Figure 11 for the years since 1914, 1915, or 1916. The number in 1913 is often more than double the 1915 or 1916 figure, and can not conveniently be shown on these charts.

The curves shown in Figure 11, are very similar in that during the first five or six years the decline was rapid. Also in most States, during 1921 and 1922, the descent of these trends was checked sharply, after which the curves became smooth and tended to flatten out more and more each year. Because of business conditions, the number of persons per car in 1930 was affected somewhat as in 1921 and 1922. States with large deviations from trend are as follows: Wyoming and New Mexico for 3 years; Idaho for 5 years; Arizona and Nevada for 2 years. Practically all States had a high or low registration during one of the years 1917, 1918, or 1919, a fact which caused persons per car to be above or below the general trend in one of these years.
Registration, therefore, during years of depression may be low when compared with the general trend. It is interesting to note the rapid recovery in most States in 1923 after the very sharp deviation from trend in 1921 and 1922.
The traffic forecasts were based largely upon projected increases in gasoline consumption. Consideration was given to the nature of the data on gasoline consumption (whether net or gross), to the amount of foreign traffic recorded within the State, and to local distribution of registration, gasoline consumption, and foreign traffic, before a specific forecast was made for a particular State. Each State was subdivided into two or more geographical sections according to density of population; and a forecast was made of the increase in traffic on the highway system within each area, on the basis of the projected increase in gasoline consumption, as modified by the considerations outlined above. Motor vehicle registration by counties was available in 9 of the 11 States, gasoline consumption by counties in but 4 states.

The estimated increases in traffie from 1930 to 1940 vary between 42 per cent in eastern Washington to 76


Figure 11.-Curves Showing Number of Persons per Motor Vehicle in Western States During Years Between 1914 and 1930. Curves are Projected to Show Probable Values for 1935 and 1940
per cent in northern Arizona. For most of the area the traffic forecast varies between 45 and 60 per cent.

## TRAFFIC CLASSIFICATION OF FEDERAL-AID SYSTEM IN WESTERN

In the determination of a consistent program of economical highway improvement it is essential to consider the present traffic and also the traffic anticipated throughout the life of the proposed improvement, or as
far ahead as reasonably accurate forecasts may be made. For this purpose the highway systems of the 11 survey States are classified in three groups according to average daily traffic density. I traffic of 1,500 or more vehicles per day is classified as heavy, 600 to 1,500 as intermediate, and under 600 as light. For the purposes of the forecast the classification is subdivided into groups $A$ to $G$, as shown in Table $S$.

Table 8.-Scheme of classification for highways of Western States according to average daily traffic density in 1930 and predicted density in 1995 and 1940

| Classification | 1930 | 1935 | 1940 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A | Over 1,500 | Over 1,500 | Over 1,500 |
| B | 600-1, 500 | Over 1,500 | Over 1,500 |
| C | 600-1,500 | 600-1,500 | Over 1,500 |
| D. | 600-1,500 | 600-1,500 | 600-1, 500 |
| F | Under 600 | 600-1, 500 | 600-1,500 |
| F | Under 600 | Under 600 | 600-1,500 |
| G | Under 600 | Under 600 | Under 600 |

Sections of the system carrying an average traffic of 1,500 or more vehicles per day, or more than 30 heavy trucks per day when the total volume of traffic is close to 1,500 , are classified as heavy in 1930. Those expected to carry this volume by 1935 or 1940 are classified as heary in 1935 or 1940, respectively. Similarly, those sections carrying an average of between 600 and 1,500 vehicles per day are classified as intermediate in 1930, with corresponding classifications for additional sections in 1935 and 1940, as the predicted increase in traffic brings them within this range. Those sections carrying an average of less than 600 vehicles per day in 1930, 1935, or 1940 are classified as light traffic highways in the respective periods.

The classification covers the Federal-aid system as of June 30, 1930, and is based on mileage figures submitted by the various States. The routes are carried continuously through all cities regardless of population.

The distribution of road mileage in the Western States according to the classification adopted is shown in Figure 12. On this map roads or sections of roads falling into each of the eight classifications (A to G) given in Table 8 are designated by appropriate symbols. Those roads which it was found impossible to classify are shown in double dash line.

The mileage included in each classification group by individual States is summarized in Table 9, which indicates the general increase of heavy and intermediate traffic routes, the heavy traffic mileage increasing from 11.3 per cent of the total mileage in 1930, to 14 per cent in 1935, and to 16 per cent in 1940. Similarly the total of the heavy and intermediate routes increases from 29.3 per cent of the total mileage in 1930, to 36.1 per cent in 1935, and to 41 per cent in 1940.

Practically half the class A highways (heavy traffic in 1930), are found in California, with Washington and Oregon adding some 1,200 miles. The three coast States contain more than three-quarters of all the class A mileage. The remainder is distributed throughout the other States, in large degree according to the size and location of the centers of population.

The mileage coming into the heavy-traffic classification in 1935 and 1940 is by no means proportional to the mileage now included in this classification in the various States. According to the forecast Nebraska, Nevada, and New Mexico will practically quadruple their present heavy traffic mileage by 1940, while Wyoming, which now has none, will have 68 miles by that time. California and Washington, with their present large mileage of heavy traffic roads, show relatively little increase. Although Utah is low in class A mileage, present traffic is so concentrated that practically no increase in its heavy traffic mileage is likely
to occur by 1940. Oregon, with 339 miles in classes B or C in 1930, adds the greatest mileage to its heavy traffic classification between 1930 and 1940.

Table 9.-Mileage ${ }^{1}$ of Federal-aid roads in the Western States falling within heavy, intermediate, and light classifications, on the basis of average daily traffic density in 1930 and predicted density in 1935 and 1940

HEAVY

| State | 1930 |  | 1935 |  | 1940 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Miles | Per cent | Miles | Per cent | Miles | Per cent |
| Arizona | 115. 1 | 5. 8 | 165.9 | 8.3 | 178.9 | 9.0 |
| California | 2,015.9 | 39. 5 | 2,272.1 | 44.5 | 2,339.1 | 45.8 |
| Colorado | 334.9 | 10.3 | 382.4 | 11.8 | 528.0 | 16.3 |
| Idaho. | 109.6 | 3.5 | 155.1 | 5.0 | 221.2 | 7.1 |
| Nebraska | 66.4 | 1.1 | 190.9 | 3.3 | 245.7 | 4. 2 |
| Nevada. | 12.1 | . 8 | 29.5 | 1.9 | 50.1 | 3.2 |
| New Mexico | 25.5 | . 7 | 69.5 | 2. 0 | 118.4 | 3.4 |
| Oregon | 440.5 | 13.3 | 581.8 | 17.5 | 779.6 | 23.4 |
| Utah. | 169.9 | 9.6 | 172.7 | 9.8 | 172.7 | 9.8 |
| Washington | 772.4 | 24.6 | 949.8 | 30.3 | 1,030.9 | 32.9 |
| W yoming |  |  | 52.8 | 1.5 | 67.9 | 1.9 |
| Total. | 4, 062.3 | 11.3 | 5, 022.5 | 14.0 | 5,732.5 | 16.0 |

INTERMEDIATE

| Arizona | 399.4 | 20.0 | 670.6 | 33.7 | 903.9 | 45. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| California | 1,130.8 | 22.1 | 1,042.8 | 20.4 | 1,115.9 | 21.8 |
| Colorado | 722.5 | 22.4 | 925.8 | 28.6 | 1,091.1 | 33.7 |
| Idaho. | 355.7 | 11.5 | 475.5 | 15.4 | 520.8 | 16.9 |
| Nebraska | 1,482. 1 | 25. 5 | 1,830. 6 | 31.5 | 1,974.2 | 34.0 |
| Nevada | 55.2 | 3.5 | 90.2 | 5. 7 | 80.6 | 5.1 |
| New Mexico | 321.2 | 9.3 | 660.2 | 19.2 | 953.4 | 27.8 |
| Oregon | 796.2 | 23.9 | 926.4 | 27.9 | 886.6 | 26.8 |
| Utah | 75.1 | 4.3 | 149.3 | 8.4 | 201.5 | 11.3 |
| Washington | 898.3 | 28.7 | 795.0 | 25.3 | 866.6 | 27.6 |
| Wroming - | 228.1 | 6.5 | 378.7 | 10.9 | 404.1 | 11.7 |
| Total. | 6,464. 6 | 18.0 | 7,945. 1 | 22.1 | 8, 998.7 | 25.0 |
| LIGHT |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Arizona | 1,441. 4 | 72.5 | 1,119.4 | 56.3 | 873.1 | 43.9 |
| California | 1,857.5 | 36.3 | 1,689.3 | 33.0 | 1,549.2 | 30.3 |
| Colorado | 2, 130.8 | 65.7 | 1,880.0 | 58.0 | 1,569.1 | 48.4 |
| Idaho | 2,343.6 | 75.9 | 2,178.3 | 70.5 | 2, 066.9 | 66.9 |
| Nebraska | 3,449.7 | 59.5 | 2,976.7 | 51.3 | 2,778.3 | 47.9 |
| Nevada | 1,370.3 | 87.5 | 1,317.9 | 84.2 | 1,306.9 | 83.5 |
| New Mexico | 3,090.6 | 90.0 | 2, 707.6 | 78.8 | 2,365. 5 | 68.8 |
| Oregon. | 1,995. 0 | 60.2 | 1, 223.5 | 52.0 | 1,565.5 | 47.2 |
| Utah | 1,518.3 | 85.4 | 1, 441.3 | 81.1 | 1,389.1 | 78.2 |
| Washington | 1,368.3 | 43.6 | 1,294. 2 | 41.3 | 1,141.5 | 36.4 |
| W yoming | 3, 109.9 | 89.9 | 2,906. 5 | 84.0 | 2,866.0 | 82.8 |
| Total | 23, 675. 4 | 65.9 | 21,234. 7 | 59.1 | 19,471. 1 | 54.2 |

UNCLASSIFIED

| State | 1930 |  | State | 1930 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Miles | Per cent |  | Miles | Per cent |
| California | 105.9 | 2.1 | Utah |  | 2.6 |
| Colorado. | 50.8 | 1.6 | W ashington | 97.6 | 3. 1 |
| Idaho. | 281.9 | 9.1 | W yorning. | 125.3 | 3.6 |
| Nebraska | 803.4 | 13.9 |  |  |  |
| Nevada- | 125.4 | 8.2 | Total.- | 1,725.8 | 4.8 |
| New Mexico |  |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{1}$ Mileage as of June 30, 1930.
The distribution of the intermediate-traffic mileage is entirely different from that of the heavy-traffic mileage. Nebraska, with its more evenly distributed population and greater mileage of highway per square mile, leads in the intermediate-traffic mileage, with nearly 1,500 miles now in this classification. This class in Nebraska also shows a marked increase in 1935 and 1940, the mileage changing from the light to the intermediate classification far exceeding that changing from the intermediate to the heary classification. This fact is true in a greater or less degree in every State except California and Washington.

The light-traffic highways decrease in all of the States during the 10-year period. California shows the


Figure 12.-Classification of Federal-Aid Highway System in the Western States on the Basis of Ayerage Daily Traffic Density in 1930 and Predicted Density in 1935 and 1940 . Scheme of Classification is Shown tn Table 8
lowest percentage of this classification in all years, while Arizona shows the greatest decrease from 1930 to 1940. Nevada and Wyoming have the greatest mileage of this class, each with over 80 per cent still classed as light-traffic highways in 1940.

Of the various through routes, one is outstanding. U. S. 99, spanning the country from north to south through Washington, Oregon, and California, is expected by 1935 to carry heavy traffic throughout its entire length, with the exception of a short section at the Oregon-California line. This route now carries heary traffic from Bellingham, Wash., to Drain, Oreg., and through California from Willows to El Centro.
U. S. 101 from San Francisco to San Diego, although not an interstate route, carries heary traffic throughout a distance of over 550 miles.

No east and west route is so heavily traveled as either of these. U. S. 80, from San Diego through Yuma, Phoenix, and Lordsburg to Las Cruces, whence it continues as U. S. 366 through New Mexico via Roswell and Clovis, is of heavy-traffic classification in 1930 only in southern California and in the vicinity of Phoenix. The traffic by 1940 will probably be such as to place practically the entive route in the intermediate or higher classification. Another relatively heavily traveled east-west route is U. S. 30, from

Omaha through Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho, and Oregon to Astoria. The section from Omaha to Laramie is now, or by 1935 will be, classed as heavy or intermediate. From Laramie through Wyoming the route will not leave the light classification by 1940 , with the exception of short sections near the various cities; but from McCammon, Idaho, through that State and Oregon to Astoria, all but a small portion will be in either the intermediate or heavy classification by 1935.
U. S. 40 , the northern route to California, through Colorado, Utah, and Nevada, carries but little traffic based on the year-round average. The only sections of this route carrying traffic above the light classification are those in Colorado from the Kansas line to Denver, in the vicinity of the cities of Salt Lake City and Reno, and in California from Emigrant Gap to San Francisco.


Sunday Afternoon Trafric on Bayshore Highway Near South San Francisco
The only other through route carrying noticeably heary traffic is U. S. 85 from El Paso through New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming. Over a good portion of this route-from Los Lunas, N. Mex., through Colorado to Cheyenne, Wyo.-the traffic falls in the intermediate or heavy classification.

Other routes or sections of routes carrying heavy or intermediate traffic can nearly all be found either within or connecting rarious economic areas. An examination of the traffic classification map (fig. 12) shows these areas well defined around Salt Lake City, Seattle, Spokane, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, and including eastern Nebraska, eastern Colorado, southern Idaho, and western Oregon and Washington. The location and extent of these routes show the insignificance of State lines or other artificial boundaries in determining traffic flow. The routes may be seen extending from State to State with little or no change in traffic classification, but changing noticeably as they progress from a center of population, or approach a natural barrier to travel.

A study of the changes in traffic classification during this 10 -year period indicates its usefulness in the formulation of a long time plan of highway improvement.

## PREPARATION OF PROGRAMS OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The traffic data provided by the survey may be used in each State as the basis for the preparation of a program of road construction, reconstruction, and maintenance consistent with traffic requirements during the ensuing 10 -year period. For this purpose the characterization of traffic as heavy, intermediate, and light, and the classification of the various sections of highway according to the character of their present and probable future traffic density, are especially useful.

Traffic density is the most important general factor in highway planning. It is the multiplier that determines the amount of vehicular operating savings resulting from road improvements; and, particularly with respect to low and intermediate types of road surface, it has a determining effect upon the life and maintenance cost of the surface. It also influences strongly the choice of surface width and others of the many decisions that must be made in the development of the highway plan.

It is a recognized principle of highway finance that the expenditure for road improvement should be kept within the earning capacity of the improvement. The return to the public upon its highway investment takes the form of reductions in the operating cost of vehicles resulting from the greater ease of traction over the improved grades and surfaces and the reduced wear and tear of vehicles consequent upon the road improvement. With increase in the movement of vehicles there is greater accumulation of individual savings and increase of the amount that may justifiably be expended to obtain further benefits.

The traffic data supplied by this survey and the estimates of future traffic density based upon them afford the needed safeguard against unwise overexpenditure by indicating the amount of the vehicular operating saving that may be expected from the improvement of each section of road during the next 10 years. But the more positive value to the highway designer lies in the usefulness of the data, when intelligently employed, in determining the character of improvement required immediately by each section of the highway system and the future alterations in the form of present improvements that will probably be required by changes in the density of traffic during the 10 -year period covered by the estimates.

The area covered by the survey is economically youthful. Traffic upon many of its roads is in an early stage of development and, at its present density, requires and will yield a compensatory return upon only a minimum improvement of the road surface. As traffic increases a point will be reached at which, because of the wear and cost of maintaining the surface, it will become cheaper to replace the initial low-type surface with a surface of intermediate cost and resistance to traffic. At the same time the greater savings accumulated by the increased operation of vehicles will support the greater investment in the higher type of road improvement. There are numerous sections on which the traffic, as indicated by the survey, has already reached the density that suggests such an intermediate type of road improvement.

With further increase of traffic the roads now or subsequently to be improved with intermediate types of surface will require for maximum economy a still further improvement by addition of high-type pavements; and again, as the data of the survey show, there are already many sections that have reached this degree of utilization.

It is not possible to fix upon any precise density of traffic, uniformly acceptable under the varied conditions obtaining in the several States, as the density at which a substitution of an intermediate for a low type of surface or a high for an intermediate type will become profitable.

The proper time for change is indicated by increase of the true annual cost of the lower type of surface with increase of traffic to an amount exceeding the estimated


Typical Western Road Surfaces
A-Gravel in Wyoming. B-Bituminous Concrete in Oregon. C-Gravel in Nevada. D-Portland Cement Concrete in California. E-Crushed Rock in Idaho. F-Bituminous Surface Treatment in California. G-Crushed Caliche in New Mexico. H-Graded Earth in New Mexico. I-Oil-Treated Gravel in ldaho
annual cost under the same density of traffic for the higher, more resistant, and more expensive type of surface. But the annual costs of the various types of surface under various densities of traffic are affected both absolutely and relatively by the different conditions of the various parts of an area of such diverse conditions as the wide territory covered by this survey. Even within an individual State it may be impracticable to base highway design upon a single relation of traffic density and road type. Where, as in this case, there are 11 States and a range of natural conditions from mountain to plain, from arid to humid, from cold to hot, it is quite impossible to apply a uniform rule.

To illustrate, consider the traffic suitability of the gravel surface, a familiar and widely used low type. The annual cost of a gravel surface involves first the sum derived by dividing the difference between the cost of construction and the salvage value at the time of replacement by the time in years between construction and reconstruction. To this is added the annual interest on the capital invested and the annual cost of maintenance under the traffic to which the surface is actually subjected.

Obviously this annual cost will be affected by differences in the cost of the gravel and by differences in the character of the gravel which will cause the surface to wear more or less rapidly under traffic of various intensities and thus influence the life of the surface. The character of the subgrade upon which the surface is laid and the general climatic conditions obtaining will also have important bearing, as will several. other variable conditions.
Similar variable conditions also affect the annual cost of the higher types of surface that may be considered for substitution in place of the gravel surface. So that it is impossible to fix upon any single density of traffic that may be uniformly used throughout such an area as the territory of this survey as the criterion of change from gravel to bituminous macadam or other higher type of surfacing.

For reasons such as this it is impossible to attempt in this report to establish the desirable highway program
in all the 11 States. The current traffic data and the estimates of future density supplied constitute the principal basis of such programs; but the establishment of the programs is a task that must be left to the several State highway departments familiar with the present condition of the various highways and the various conditions, such as the cost and character of available road materials, and the effect of the existing climate and soils upon surfaces built of such materials.
Moreover, there will be special cases in which traffic density or tangible economy will not be controlling factors in determining the type of road improvement. Such cases may be expected to be rather more numerous in these Western States than in other more fully developed areas. In remote mountain and desert regions, for example, it is quite possible that the type of road improvement may be determined by such factors as the convenience, safety, comfort, and speed of traffic to a greater degree than by the more tangible factors of traffic density and cost.
In all cases, however, the tables and maps contained in the report, showing as they do the average daily density of traffic upon all sections of the Federal-aid highway system at the time of the survey and the estimated density after 5 and 10 years, respectively, will serve as a reliable guide in the establishment of the highway program. The characterization of the traffic as light, intermediate, and heavy according as its average daily density is less than 600 , between 600 and 1,500 , and over 1,500 vehicles, respectively, and the classification of the various road sections according to this denomination of their traffic at the three periods, represent efforts to reduce the data to a practically usable form. The limits assigned to the three classes of traffic, that is, 600 and 1,500 vehicles per day, are not to be construed as traffic densities indicative of the need of low, intermediate, or high type surfaces; although, in the general way possible under the circumstances, modified as necessary by other known facts, the passage of a section of road from one to the other of the resulting classes may be accepted as an index of traffic growth critical in its bearing upon highway design.

## TRUCK GREAT FACTOR IN FARM FREIGHTING

MOTOR trucks are hauling approximately 15 per cent of the total shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables transported 20 or more miles to market, according to a survey made recently by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Motor-truck shipments of 20 or more miles in 1929 are estimated by the bureau at between 150,000 and 200,000 cars, as compared with $1,068,745$ cars transported by rail and boat lines. This represents a large percentage increase in motortruck hauls in recent years, but it is pointed out that rail and boat shipments have practically doubled in the last 10 years. On a mileage basis the percentage of motor trucks to total shipments is much less than 15 per cent because of the longer average haul by railroads.

In areas covered by the survey motor-truck hauls ranged from 2 to 92 per cent of the shipments which went 20 or more miles in those areas in 1928, the high figure being for the State of Connecticut. In Southwestern Michigan 73 per cent of the shipments going 20 or more miles to market go by motor truck; on Long Island, 68 per cent; in the Hudson Valley, 67 per cent; central and southern New Jersey, 67 per cent; Delaware, 41 per cent; southern Indiana, 37 per cent; eastern shore of Maryland, 24 per cent; western Maryland, 24 per cent; southern Illinois, 21 per cent; western New York, 19 per cent; south central Pennsylvania, 18 per cent; western Massachusetts, 7 per cent; eastern shore of Virginia, 3 per cent; and the West Virginia, Cumberland, Shenandoah Valley region, 2 per cent. Motortruck hauls in these areas totaled 77,102 cars,as against 136,509 cars carried by rail and boat. In important producing areas remote from large markets-Florida, southern Texas, California, the Northwestern States, and northern Maine-the percentage of shipments hauled by motor truck is much smaller than in some of the areas covered by the survey.

The bureau investigated truck receipts at city markets and trade and operating practices of truckmen, farmers, truckmen carriers, and truckmen merchants, and studied the economic aspects of shipping by truck in their effect upon distribution and production.

The following is a summary of some of the information brought out by the survey:

Trucks have expedited transportation on short hauls and have made the distribution of highly perishable products more direct and less wasteful under certain conditions.

Regional motor-truck jobbing markets, where products from a considerable area are concentrated and redistributed, and wholesale roadside stands, are increasing in number to serve the motor-truck trade.
Products most suited to long-distance transportation by motor truck are the light, quickly perishable fruits and vegetables or those that yield a high freight revenue and require expeditious movement to market.

Distances covered by trucks have increased; highly perishable products are now being hauled regularly for distances as great as 400 miles, and even greater distances in some areas.

For all the areas in north central and northeastern United States that were studied the relation which motor-truck shipments of important commoditics bore to the total shipments was, in terms of percentage: Spinach, 96 ; snap beans, 89 ; mushrooms, 85 ; asparagus, 76; tomatoes, 64; strawberries, 58; cantaloupes, 49; grapes, 48 ; peaches, 43 ; potatoes, 25 ; apples, 24 ; lettuce, 21 ; sweet potatoes, 19; onions, 18; and cabbage, 12.
The truck unloads of fruits and vegetables at the 11 cities studied, excluding market-garden receipts, were of greatest relative importance at Los Angeles where they were 57 per cent of the total of unloads for the city, and of least relative importance at Boston, where they were only 2 per cent of the total unloads.

Redistribution from city markets to surrounding trade territories has grown in volume and in distance. Except for local supplies, the area within 50 miles is now usually supplied with fruits and vegetables by truck from the large city market. In the outer rim of the trade territory, up to 150 miles, and sometimes farther, trucks compete with mixed cars and express shipments from the large city and with straight cars shipped direct from producing areas.

It was estimated that 50 per cent of the total receipts on the wholesale markets at Pittsburgh was trucked out of the metropolitan area in the spring of 1930 , and at Baltimore 24 per cent was trucked out.

Country cold-storage plants aid motor-truck transportation by prolonging the trucking season. The use of the truck facilitates quick movement of apples into storage after packing, which is a decided advantage. Canning-plant managers are using trucks to obtain more soft fruits and tomatoes of desirable maturity and to extend the area from which supplies are received.

| Probaboempenditures by stadehighway departments |
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| Construction expenditures |
| Total roads <br> and bridges |






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## State


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 16 Excludes $\$ 4$, , 556 , 40 ' for reimbursements of counties for county bond payments.
17 Amount payable on previous year's uncompleted work; no new State construct


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[^2]:    ${ }^{2}$ Report of a Survey of Transportation on the State Highway System of Ohio, (1927); Report of a Survey of Transportation on the State Highway System of Connecticut (1926); The Maine Highway Transportation Survey, Public Roads, vol. 6,
    No. 3, May, 1925.

